

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Knepp House Inventory Number: G-V-A-042
Address: Garrett Highway Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ X no
City: Oakland Zip Code: 21550 County: Garrett
USGS Quadrangle(s): Table Rock MD/WV
Property Owner: William H. Knepp Tax Account ID Number: 08-016038
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 144 Tax Map Number: 95
Project: Roth Rock Wind Power Project; Garrett Co. Agency: MD Public Service Comm.
Agency Prepared By: Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Paula Reed Date Prepared: 4/27/2006
Documentation is presented in: MIHP# G-V-A-042, Maryland Coal Region Historic Sites Survey, 1981
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ X Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ X no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Knepp House is located on the east side of US Route 219, about 1/2 mile south of the Redhouse crossroads. It is a two-story farmhouse of vertical-plank construction. It is set in a hill so the cellar forms an additional level on the southeast, or rear. The foundation is formed of cast concrete and rubble stone. The northwest four-bay façade has two entrances sheltered by a shed-roofed porch, which extends across the front. The house has 2/2 sash windows, many of them broken, and two interior end brick chimneys. The weatherboards have been covered with aluminum siding on the southwest gable end. The first floor fenestration plan is different from that of the second floor; the windows and doors are not aligned with those on the second floor. The first floor of the façade has a door, window, door, window pattern. The house appears to date from the early 20th century. According to an MHT evaluation in 1981 as part of the Coal Region survey, the house has a two-room floor plan with a central enclosed staircase. The house is unoccupied currently and in deteriorated condition. Other than the affects of being empty, the farmstead appears the same as it did in 1981. A frame bank barn with and extended enclosed forebay and a stave silo lies south of the house and is still in use. A small gable roofed garage is located behind the house.

Evaluation:

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒ X
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
MHT Comments:

Jonathan Sags
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

6/26/06
Date

NA
Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

200601643

This farmstead is not associated with local events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history nor significant persons of the past. While the property has been part of the local scene for the past century, there is no available documentation that suggests that it was particularly significant individually in the community's agricultural history (Criterion A). There is also no available documentation that the farmstead is representative of the lives of any individuals important in local, regional or national history (Criterion B). Built in the early 20th century, it does not represent the founding or founders of the community. While it retains its original form, the abandonment of the property and its consequent deteriorated and overgrown condition alters the exterior character and diminishes visual integrity. Thus, it does not retain distinctive visual qualities of setting, location, design, materials, or workmanship. The building is not an example of a significant architectural type, style, or period of construction, due to its poor condition (Criterion C), and there are more intact examples both inside the project area (G-V-A-072) and in the Oakland vicinity along Route 219. Although vertical plank construction is an important vernacular regional type, the Knepp House is not an exceptional example of this type, and there are other more intact examples extant in Garrett County, and in the project area. Most of the properties evaluated for this project date from the 1900-1920 period, and are of frame or vertical plank construction. Therefore the farmstead is recommended as not individually eligible for the National Register.

Archaeological assessment for Criterion D was not done as part of this evaluation of above-ground resources.

History/Context:

Redhouse developed at the intersection of the Northwestern Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) and the Great Warrior's Path (U.S. Route 219). In about 1832 a two-story frame inn was built at this junction, on the property now occupied by G-V-A-43, the Benjamin F. Knepp Barn, on the southeast corner of the intersection. The red-painted "Red House" tavern and the surrounding hamlet served stagecoaches, covered wagons, settlers, cattle drovers, and other travelers at the busy intersection. The tavern property included a drovers' pasture for use by patrons' herds. Also near the intersection was a tollgate for the turnpike, the only one for the Northwestern Turnpike in Maryland. The original tavern operator was Frederick C. Carstens, who sold the Red House to Peter Shirer in 1841. Then the B & O Railroad made its way through Oakland about eight miles to the north in 1852. Eventually the railroad superseded the highways' freight-hauling function and wagons and drovers dwindled at the Redhouse intersection. Peter Shirer sold the Red House to Jacob Swartzentruber in 1855, who owned it through the Civil War. During the war, soldiers confiscated livestock and forage from the tavern and from surrounding farms. The next owner was Christian Martin who demolished the tavern, and in 1890 transferred the property to his son-in-law William Knepp. In the 1920s, Benjamin Knepp, William's son, acquired the property. Benjamin Knepp removed the house that Christian Martin built and constructed the current dwelling on the property, a stone gambrel-roofed house. He also built a gas station in the northwest corner of the Redhouse intersection. This farm which adjoins the Redhouse Inn property to the south is also associated with the Knapp family.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

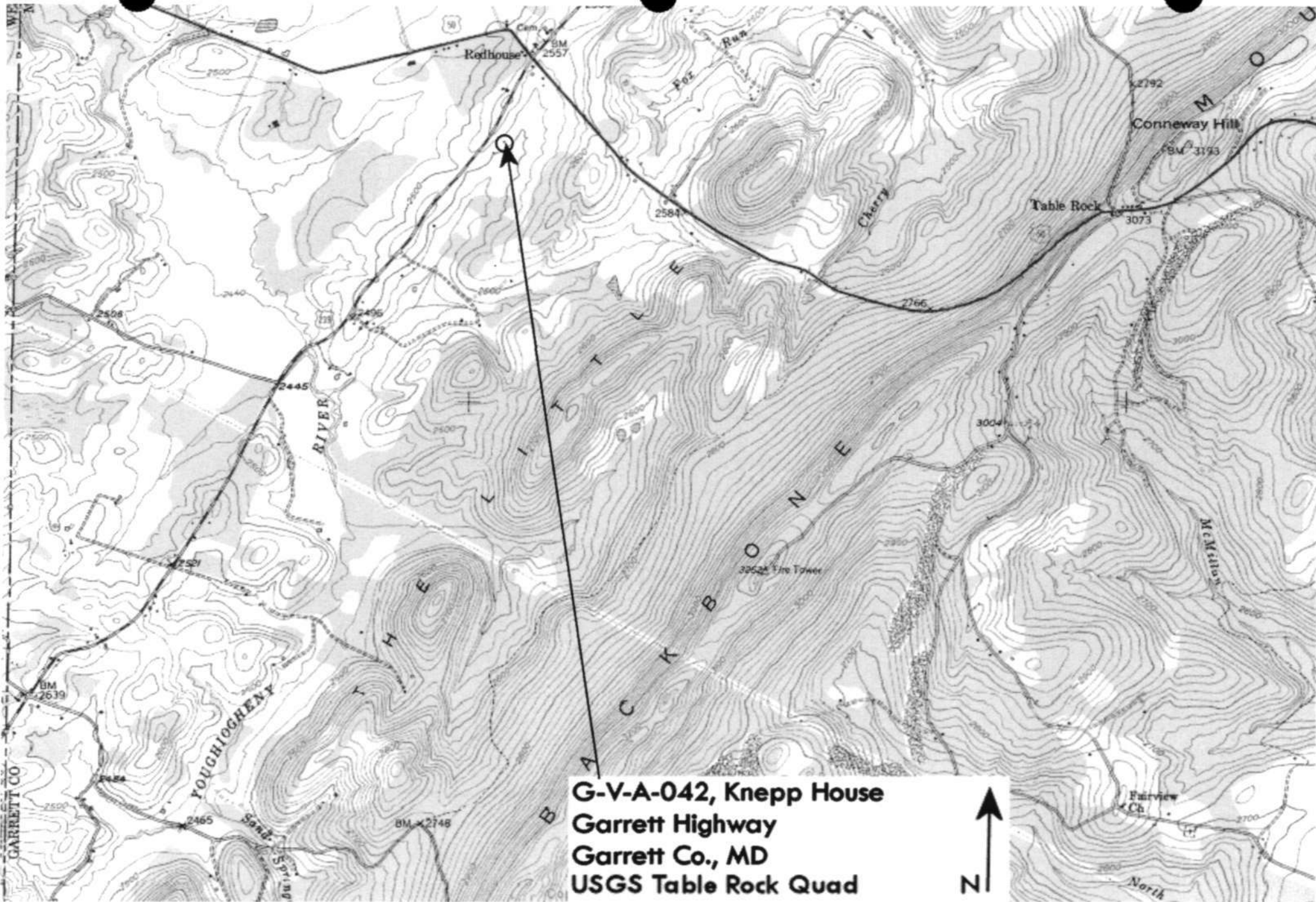
MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date





G.V.A.042

Knepp House

Garrett Co. MD

Merry Stinson 8/24/05

MD / SHPO

NW elevs.

1 of 5



G.V.A.042

Knapp House

Garrett Co. MD

Merry Stinson 8/24/05

MD / SHPO

born: NE & NW elevs

2 of 5



G-V-A-042

Knepp House

Garrett Co., MD

Paula Reed

4/06

MDSHPO

S W view

3 of 5



G-V-A-042

Knepp House

Garrett Co., MD

Paula Reed

4/06

MDSHPO

SE view

4 of 5



G-V-A-042

Knepp House

Garrett Co., MD

Paula Reed

4/06

MDSHPO

SE view

S of S

G-V-A-042
Knepp House
Redhouse
Private

late 19th century

The Knepp House lies in open, mountainous, terrain and is a good example of the plank house construction type found in Garrett County. It is a two-story, four bay by two bay dwelling with a gable roof. The vertical planks which support the house measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and are covered with weatherboard siding.

The facade has a double entrance and faces northwest. A one-story shed porch supported by four turned wood posts runs across the facade.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

G-V-A-042
MAGI #1209895604
ML

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Knepp House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 219 - east side, approx. 2/3 mile south of intersection with Route 50

CITY, TOWN

Redhouse

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERICAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Benjamin F. Knepp, Jr.

Telephone #: (301) 334-4079

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Redhouse

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21550**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

Liber #: 273

Folio #: 316

STREET & NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

G-V-A-042

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Knepp House lies in open, mountainous, terrain and is a good example of the plank house construction type found in Garrett County. It is a two-story, four bay by two bay dwelling with a gable roof. The vertical planks which support the house measure 1½ feet wide and are covered with weatherboard siding.

The facade has a double entrance and faces northwest. A one-story shed porch supported by four turned wood posts runs across the facade.

The house is set into a hill with the rear, southeast elevation resting on a full-story basement. The foundation at this elevation is cast-concrete; while on the side and front elevations it is rubble mixed with concrete. (Creek sand was commonly used as a concrete mixture in rural farmhouse foundations.)

The weatherboard siding appears to have been painted red at one time with green cornerboards, window and door surrounds; everything was later painted white which has since weathered. The southwest gable end has aluminum siding.

The gable roof of the house and the facade porch shed roof are covered with standing seam metal.

The two facade entrances are alternated by two over two sash windows: beginning with the northeast end of the facade, there is a door, then a window, another door, and a window at the southwest end. The doors are wood with three horizontal panels surmounted by a single pane window.

All windows in the house are two over two sash with plain board surrounds. There are two interior end brick chimneys.

The interior of the house is based on a two-room plan with a central enclosed staircase. The walls and ceiling are covered with narrow, horizontal boards.

This site includes: a frame outhouse, southeast of the house, and a rock-faced, brick building block garage with a gable roof, south of the house. A frame bank barn, silo, and frame corncrib lie southwest of the house.

According to Ben Knepp, Jr. owner of the house, a still which was in operation about 100 years ago, was located approximately 1,000 feet southeast of the barn, in the woods.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

G-V-A-042

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Knepp House is a good example of the vertical plank constructed house type found in Garrett County. for more details on plank construction, see James Q. Fike Farm, G-II-A-033.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

G-V-A-042

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donna Ware, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

August 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

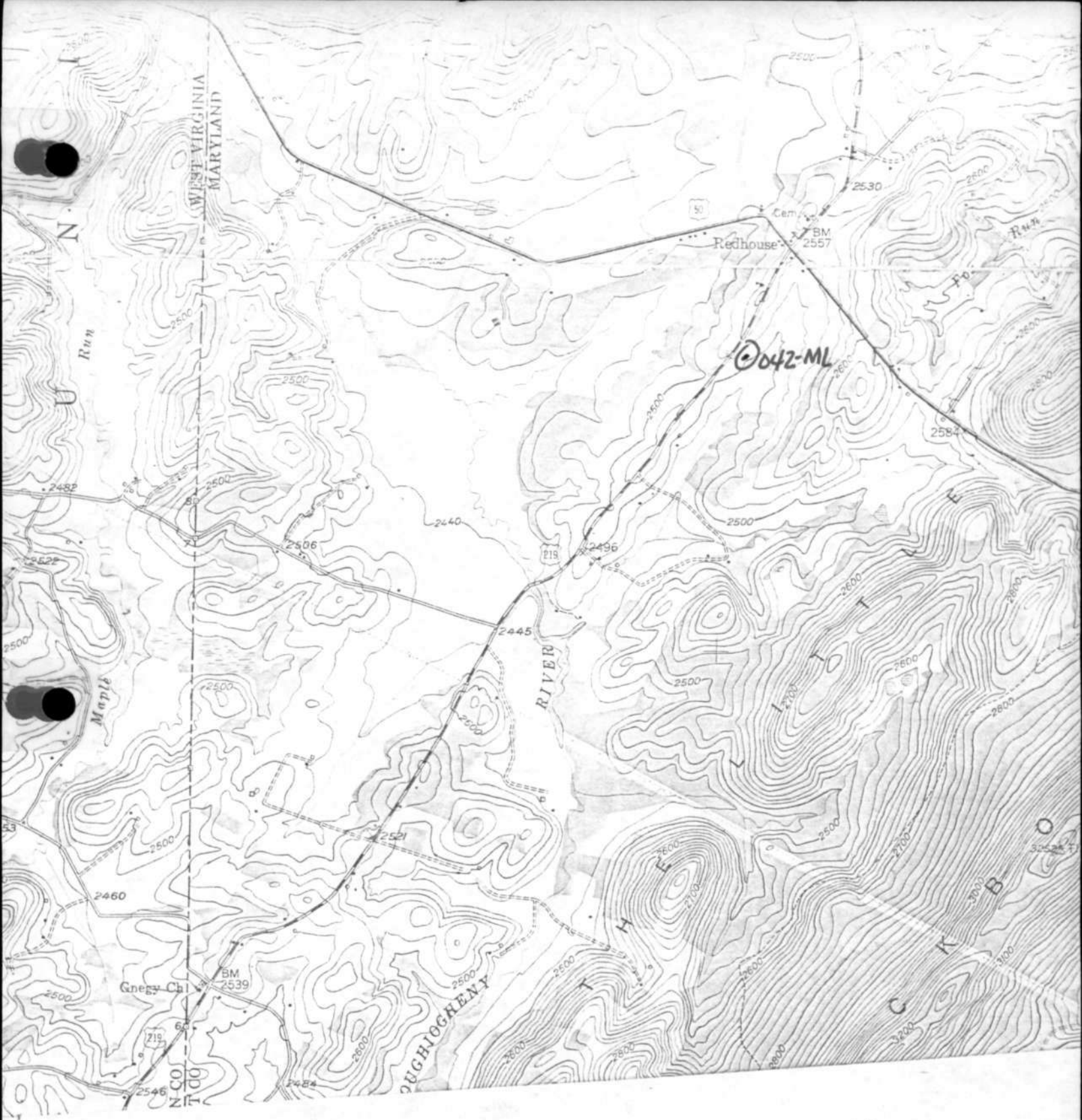


Table Rock, MD:WV
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series
 Scale 1:24,000
 1948; photorevised 1974

G-V-A-042
 Knepp House
 Route 219, east side,
 approx. 2/3 mile south of
 intersection with Route 50.



G-V-A-042

Knepp House

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 8/28/80

NE elev. (gable end)

Back - SE elev.



G-V-A-042

Knepp House

Garrett Co., MD

Valerie Cesna 8/28/80

NW Facade